Consumption of CNG and LNG in Bihar

4279. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LNG and CNG outlets in Bihar;

(b) the names of the operators of such outlets;

(c) the present consumption of LNG and CNG in Bihar; and

(d) the plans and schemes for future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) At present there are no LNG and CNG outlets in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) GAIL is planning a gas pipeline connecting the States of U.P. Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal to the existing HVJ pipeline to supply natural gas from domestic sources/RLNG from terminals in West Coast, whenever such gas becomes available. Based on availability, CNG outlets will be planned.

Petrol and diesel outlets in Bihar

4280. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol and diesel outlets of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Bihar;

(b) the names of the owners/distributors/dealers in each case;

(c) the category to which they belong; and

(d) whether any malpractice of benami operation of such outlets has been noticed; if so, what action has been taken in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) As on 31st March, 2005, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) *viz.*, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) had 828 retails outlets (petrol and diesel) outlets, in the State of Bihar. OMC-wise position was as under:—

OMC	Number of retail outlets
IOCL	398
BPCL	233
HPCL	197
TOTAL	828

The details of dealers of these retail outlets are available with the Director (Marketing) of the companies concerned.

(d) None of these three OMCs has reported any case of benami operation of its retail outlets in the State during the last three years.

Potential of setting up a new oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh

4281. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any time Government did any surveys or studies on the potential of setting up an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study on the physical feasibility of setting up an oil refinery near the cast gas resources in the Godavari delta in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if not, the plans of Government to locate an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of such plans which were at any time studied with regard to their potential and commercial viability?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have no plan or proposals to set up an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh. However, the Refineries Sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government *vide* Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin. dated 22.7.1997.

Review of subsidies on oil products

4282. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed certain observations of the Asian Development Bank in its recent annual publication "Asian Development Outlook", highlighting *inter alia* that the State subsidies on oil products are doing great harm in India and some other South East Asian member-countries, inasmuch as they are poorly targeted, often distorting resource